

Kentucky Arts Council On-line - Long Range Plan Survey Comments

Comments on Goal 1

Do not lose sight of the individual working artist.

since your asking, the Fine Art realm needs to have more group activities. pen women in the south central area, watercolorist needs a watercolor society in south central. all the news letters are gaged toward the teachers in school. what about people who are not involved in teaching and are just women and men withouth children or school involement. theres little to say to these people in the newsletter. this needs to be addressed, I feel.

Participate in, or promote, studies that demonstrate and measure the impact of arts and arts-education programs on audiences, students, teachers, schools, and communities. Train artists and arts organizations in assessment tools and techniques.

Provide increased exposure state-wide for school students of all ages to symphony, ballet, opera, and cross cultural events

Encourage local arts groups to become more involved in the schools in their community

Use the arts to build bridges with communities in other countries that have existing relationships with Kentucky.

The thrust seems to be to encourage youth participation and involvement in the arts. There are MANY seniors in the state that can contribute significantly to arts development, either through direct participation in the arts, or by encouraging others. Many of these people are extremely bright and talented - and can contribute experience. The seniors are generally left out in involvement programs, with the main thrust going to young people.

Funding is a major problem in having artists come to the schools. I know there are grants but it isn't nearly enough.

Sponsor educational activites within the schools with art teachers as the professional artist instead of requiring the schools to use an artist on the roster as well- art teachers are professional artists!

I cannot believe visual arts is the first to be cut in the schools because of budget crunches...where is the education of administrators on this one?

There is an urgent need for attention to visual art education in Kentucky Elementary Schools. Life long education in an area must begin in elementary school. Currently, the situation has become the haves" and the "have nots" because decision makers at the school level have been given the power to decide whether art is an important part of the curriculum. The fact that it is assessed seems to have little to no impact in poor decisions made in too many schools."

Encourage event coordinators to look in their" backyard. Many do not know who the local artist/crafters are in their area or region. Many go for the "money" and duplicate booths. For instance: Most Traditional Folkartist have unspoken rules as means of respect for their fellow like artists; they do not go into others territories without asking permission etc. This may seem old fashioned if there are too many of like kind artist/craft booths it takes away from the uniqueness of any art/craft show."

Arts organizations need to work together with business organizations to help develop a self-sustaining economic base for the arts. If there are no jobs in the arts, then, in our work obsessed society, art will continue to be seen as an activity suitable only for children, the disabled, retired, etc. Also, with no viable economic base, the best and the brightest will always study something besides the arts. Who wants to be doomed to a future of unemployment and economic uncertainty?

Teacher training should emphasise how to incorporate the arts into the basic curriculum. It importance of music, hands on art projects and literature as art should be emphasised as ways to enhance and facilitate learning basic skills and methods taught showing how to do this in the classroom.

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Use schools and libraries for informal night and weekend classes, such as is done in recreation centers in other, mostly western, locales.

There should be art, music, and P.E. teachers FULL time at every school. They should not have to go between two or three schools. This is not beneficial for the children.

Help facilitate partnerships between arts orgs and other non profits

I also believe that local and regional based internships should be advocated outside the standard educational system. Many excellent artists are self-taught, or have learned via the age old method of watching / listening / helping others. Formal education is not the end-all, do-all, be-all of human existence. Open minds can learn a lot, and the learning experience is far from limited to the usual classroom. Give the older ways a chance too.

Support free speech in the arts.

It is quite possible that Phyllis Brown did irreparable harm during her time of influence in Ky. by promoting the state art as kitsch. Kentucky has been the home of many fine modern artists, until they find that no one in Kentucky arts has any comprehension of contemporary mores, after which they either enter another field or move to a state which has a modicum interest in the present. Kentucky has been firmly cemented into a niche of corncob dolls and braided rugs. I eagerly await its entry into , if not the millennium century, at least the 20th century

Increase opportunities for hands-on participation in the arts by students at the elementary level.

Work for greater integration of the arts into the day-to-day lives of our cities.

I had an opportunity to participate in the Kentucky Institute for Arts in Education Pilot Program in 1995 through the University of Louisville during my Rank I Program. What a gift! I've never thought about art in the same way since that experience. I constantly think of ways I can incorporate art in my teaching.

Comments on Goal 2

My concern with crossing cultural lines" and funding more collaborative work is that doing this often undercuts individual working artists. I have seen this shift occur in other organizations and the struggling full-time studio artist is often lost in the shuffle."

make sure your people at the state and artists and arts organizations all have access to computers and the website info. Some folks still aren't getting it because of the technology barrier. Perhaps have an agreement with a computer company for discounts?

Increase awareness among everyday citizens and parents/community of students who benefit from the arts, about the value of supporting them.

Convene an arts summit of those funding the arts, govt agencies in our state, foundations, corporate funders to discuss who is funding what and what are the gaps. Convene a summit on arts and education bringing together arts leaders and education leaders.

Some of the KAC programs, and the people who represent them, show little true understanding of arts. They have their own agenda to pursue. The agenda is frequently related to promoting themselves and their ideas, not true art(s).

Meet the Professional Development needs of Arts and Humanities teachers

Work with the KAEA and help to sponsor some of their programs and ideas.

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I think PDs and cultural arts programs that come to visit the schools should be core content related to whom they are visiting...especially dance and drama at the elementary level since these are arbitrarily addressed at each school...classroom teachers need to see how these terms" can be incorporated into their social studies plans on a regular basis."

There is not sufficient state-wide delivery currently. Some schools include art in the curriculum (in a meaningful way), some don't, and some just pretend to include it.

Increase awareness that music and art teachers need a per student amount of money to spend yearly.

Example art--\$2.00 per child (due to their materials being consumable); music--\$1.00 per child). At our school, library always gets their state recommended allocation--which is generous. Art and music do not at this time.

Not all Traditional Folkart can be classified or defined as beginning from a definite area or region of the state. Some Traditional Folkart has yet to have true" history written and the ones that have had "some" history written is only of that particular point of view of the author or region. Many "passed down" family art was once a chore and no one in the past spoke about their chores it was a normal way of life. Also many traditional folkart crosses multi cultures when compared as such one will see that there is no true beginning or end."

To find an arts group, I basically had to get one started with the wonderful help of Judy Sizemore, our circuit rider. She deserves endless thanks for that. The result was the Kentucky Mountain Creative Coalition...the KMCC. We're a tiny, highly diverse group, struggling hard to keep going, and refusing to quit. It is an uphill battle all the time for us. There was almost zero support in our area for such a group...then the Tourism Council gave us a grant. It's comparatively small, but we're determined to make it work as much as we can. We'd like to have some cooperation and assistance from others who don't seem to either care or understand the value of creative persons and their skills. Help us open doors and minds. This is a key to a healthy tourism community in our region. From there, economic improvement for a large percentage of people. Follow the lead on that...what other industry ALREADY exists here, waiting to be exploited? What other industry will encourage preservation of our natural resources (our land), than tourism, for which the arts is a main ingredient?

Support free speech in the arts.

Utilize current commercial galleries on a scheduled basis to alert corporations to what is available, and a little contemporary information. All galleries in the state should be invited to participate in all areas regularly.

Create ways in which to advertise art events for free: website, email etc.

we must educate the general of what the arts can do for society

We do think about art inclusion at my middle school and it shows. As a recent recipient of a Kentucky and National Blue Ribbon Awards, the reports included a strong connection to the arts. It is expected in my community, so perhaps including a stronger program to encourage parent and student groups/organizations to be involved would be advisable.

Comments on Goal 3

Connect individual artist with art reps or other ways to reach galleries other than through the Market.

Help to educate government officials--teach them about the visual arts.

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I have used neutral" when I'm not sure or need more info. I think KAC already does much for artists in the craft marketing program. The focus needs to broaden to include and value "non traditional" art."

perhaps have a category where one time, an underserved community doesn't have to provide a match, only use the seed money and show what they have done to develop a community plan for ongoing arts programming.

Just do not forget the established artists.

The money issue for start up companies is a real problem. Our company, Rhythms of Life Dance Company, is struggling to even put up or first show because of lack of funding.

if this would happen there would be a better chance that artists would be coming out of the woodwork to get their art shown. keep pushing for the individual artist without connection to school and teaching.
thanks

Provide showcase (of some sort) which highlights the work of emerging local artists, while educating the community and local governments about the need for funding and support.

While I agree there needs to be moer funding for beginning artists and companies, I do not think the Fund for the Arts is a model to be replicated. I think it is important to increase funding for ALL artists.

Create more synergy with other arts groups, like the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts. Maybe create a program where teen and college-age artists get to work with established artists.

1) Grants to communities are often misused and wasted - re: grant to Lexington for new arts building (Ben Snyder Building) - the money was frittered away for other things, and we ended up with a little hole in the wall that has no parking, and little use for the art community in Lexington.

2) We need more than affordable health insurance for artists. We need affordable health insurance for everyone (except maybe the extremely wealthy!). Thank the Legislature and Congrees for the high medical costs and terribly expensive health insurance costs.

Although I am an artist and support the arts- I do not feel like we need to give special treatment to artists. Marketing and how to run businesses is out there already for anyone interested- spend the money where it isn't and where it will reach the most people.

There are many artists in a community that are not recognized because they do not derive their sole income from their expertise...and some professional" artists are deemed artists because they exhibit etc...somehow it would be great to have a collaborative stage to provide access to all artists regardless of their "fame" in the community...Administrators of all businesses need to see the importance of the arts and its impact on their profits...everything gives off something...how do they want to contribute to society and the arts of our time...how is our generation/culture/times going to be known for their support of documenting history as it is expressed in the arts?"

It is very difficult to survive financially as an individual artist in Kentucky. I do not know a single artist who survives on her income from art work. Do you know of any other profession where this is true? The individual artist needs more support. Not just for established artists (who by the way can't usually make it either just by their selling their art work), but for emerging artists also.If we put more money into individual living/working grants and opportunities for shows for artists they would stay here in Kentucky- this is a great place to live. The grants need to be more open to experimental conceptual work. I know a lot of fantastic artists who never get funded because the experimental nature of their work. This is also where these younger artists need to be on panels to equalize the opportunities for everyone - not just the well known traditional artists.

The KAC seems to do a fabulous job supporting artists.

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Create directories of performing/visual Traditional Artists by region across the state. It may also be a good idea to state their years of expertise in such areas (apprentice or master).

Expand networking opportunities. And use general, not overly specific guidelines in determine who is an artist and what is art. Create an environment for more seminars, workshops and, for that matter, art festivals.

much of this work should be done at the local level by interested parties. The KAC can and should support these initiative. The KAC cannot and should not be responsible for all the work in the arts at every level throughout thestate.

make affordable health insurance for artists a reality

I know from personal experience how hard it is to merely keep a minimum of supplies and the work flowing, how hard it is to make a little money to help support your household, in this region. I was a professional horse groom in the Bluegrass region, once upon a time. Health problems still weigh me down; I have no health care at all. Period. And I have numerous musculoskeletal problems that prevent me from doing that work again, however much I love it still. Yet I am not disabled". I refuse to be. Not while I can still write, paint, click a shutter or any other occupation. Artists are struggling out there and needlessly quality going wasted because they have no time or funds for development beyond basic survival because of economic issues health and the neglect of their communities. That's a crying shame. The development of the plow gave rise to the Italian Renaissance... what's going to give Kentuckians a little time and hope to open creative minds to a world hungry for Appalachian arts? Thank the surprisingly lucrative movie "O Brother Where Art Thou" and George Clooney for that. What we have is worth sharing. It always has been. Get it out there; help people have pride in what they do. Let the world see us through new eyes for what we are instead of what we've been portrayed as for generations."

Support free speech in the arts.

The basic problem with nearly all of these suggestions is that they rely in part on politically clout. brothers-in-law" are not welcome in the real art community. Inviting politicians into art is like pouring ice water on creativity. Any of these programs has the potential to be nothing more than just another Kentucky pork barrel."

Create stronger public relations representatives for arts groups.

Sponsorship of artists where they return services for the arts community would be excellent. Concerns about how to equitably sponsor individual artists could be a issue that is difficult to address.

Comments on Goal 4

increase knowlege about comtemporary art forms

Educating the business community about how imporatannt it is to support the arts is just as important and educating future artists.

Enlist the resources of public television to draw young minds back to the gifts of creativity and imagination from the 'black hole of the soul' that most of television has become. There could be a showcase of artists and talents there, that could be presented in a way that would rival anything else on mainstream television in excitement and inspiration.

Some work is being done on the national level to bring arts funders and education funders together. We could build on that here in KY.

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Provide more venues where artists of all types can share their contribution with the general public. More organizations like the Community Orchestra in Lexington, like the Community Orchestra that U of Louisville used to sponsor, but quit having it. More places where true artists can display their work - not just the juried influential artists with connections. Arts is much woder and important than the "professional" artists - in all of the arts."

Provide artist with the knowledge of the state regs in art education so they can better serve and work with the schools.

Flyiers or handouts that list skills learned through the arts and the ways in which achievement is heightened would be very helpful to give to parents and administration.

Amen to emphasizing the role of arts in education...what good is an idea unless it can be expressed...what other platform is there but the arts?

Art in education: example: Music-aids students in math, social studies, eye and hand coordination and critical thinking skills. Today's teachers are overwhelmed with more paperwork than they have been in centuries and truly have less time to teach. Rank the schools art performance by competitive measures, such as competitions etc. Art in schools is important, but the one major hurdle would be KY's huge emphasis on sports vs. art.

I agree that all these items should be encouraged and supported but should not depend solely on the efforts of the KAC. Local communities and individuals need to assume the responsibility for initiating programs at the local level. The funds at the state level and the staff resources are limited. the folk in communities need to assert some creative energy to develop relevant art venues for their home places.

Again, get it out there. Help communities AND individuals have pride in what we have to offer the world. Local and regional arts support groups will play a key role in that. Tourism is the very breath of hope for this state and its residents.

Support free speech in the arts.

Is arts exclusively used here to mean fine arts? Why not include folk arts and culture, which would connect to heritage without a limitation to music and folk tales, with their connotation of quaintness. Whose heritage is being connected? Modern urban dwellers? Be more inclusive, please.

I don't believe the business community or public sector are going to pay attention to direct contact or campaigns from arts organizations. We have to reach the people in the community and if we reach enough of them, they will get corporate and government attention.

we need to connect our hertiage in all area of arts, not just music and folk art.

The last two goals are tremendously important to me as a parent/educator because the sate's current budget crisis may affect the inclusion of arts programs in many school throughout Kentucky for the next decade.

Comments on Goal 5

Training in dealing with the political system and how to deal with it would be VERY helpful.

this is great. I vote yes. educate the public that art is needed, fine art 2d art. not just theatre. music is needed too.

Begin educating children at the pre-K level about the value of the arts." This would be better stated by saying "Provide children at the pre-K level opportunities to be DOING art." Educate the adults in their environs." You do a great job.

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Provide artists with information about how we can help with lobbying the legislature - beyond just sending letters or e-mails ourselves.

- 1) Part of the value of arts is diversity - not necessarily unity.
- 2) There are many teachers who already know how schools function, and are also artists of various types (and not just the 'arts' teachers. Tap into their skill rather than wasting time trying to learn this half-way from the outside, and then misrepresent what is really going on in the schools and how they operate.
- 3) KAC is a waste of time and money - and I tried being a part of it.
- 4) Educate all children IN the arts as artists - not just learning the value of arts
- 5) Lobbying in all aspects should be eliminated. The wealthy and powerful drive the programs. The legislatures should be smart enough, and courteous enough to deal with what needs to be done in the state - not just how to support the lobbying organizations. What good does it do to lobby a group that can't cooperate, can push only their own agendas, and can't even pass a budget?

Art education is already the law. Learn about the laws we already have before you lobby legislators or talk to schools.

Have a grant writing session in which you share grants that had been done in the past and you actually help start writing a grant- not just these are what is available. Work on trying to show businesses that they use the arts and identifying the ways in which their business already use it. Work on getting them to share with schools speakers who discuss how they use the arts in their business so that students, teachers, parents, and administration start seeing the connections to jobs that aren't normally viewed as art jobs (for instance- a police detective)

It seems the kids are being educated maybe twice a week in the arts...how about those legislators and politicians...what are they being schooled in? The politicians need to see the arts as paramount to an education more than they see the need to be computer literate.

All of this art promotion is great but will not do anyone any good until the artists are provided more support/opportunities. In this money driven culture, value is placed on money. From a very young age we are taught about the starving artist and our expectations are lowered about how to pay/'value' an artist. If this state provided more support for the individual artist, then children/everyone could see that this is truly a valued profession and endeavor. These goals are great but if the individual artist can't even make it, i.e. make a living, then the point is moot.

Identify who the other state/federal organizations currently working with schools. Many have art and writing contests. It would be great if each county could have a liaison contact person. This person would be able to aide in creating time schedules, work and assist with schools in meeting each goal and seeing how each project would fit into each site based schools KERA programs.

Many of these actions are already provided by advocacy groups, e.g. the Kentucky Citizens for the Arts, Local Action Teams, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Ky. Center for Democracy. these are existing organizations with a strong track record of organizing and building skills for lobbying, etc. Why not partner with them for some of this work?

I cannot repeat myself enough, it seems. We have under our very noses the salvation of the state. We have painters, musicians, singers, writers, photographers, potters, ceramacists, weavers, spinners, dyers, leatherworkers, glass-blowers, gunsmiths, woodworkers, sculptors... you name it. They can not only DO, they can also TEACH, for the most part. If you go into a house, a store, a BARN, whatever... look around. An artist/craftsman made and/or designed EVERY single thing you see, from your coffee cup in the morning and the newspaper you read with it, to the blankets you crawl under at night...even your car, toothbrush, keys. Everything. Why is it then that the myth of the starving artist persists, and even the KY state Dept. of Vocational Rehabilitation will tell you that being an artist isn't really a job"? It's amazing to me at least. But then that's just me. Maybe I'm easily impressed."

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Support free speech in the arts.

There are entirely too many schmoozers masquerading as artists already. Introducing these people more concretely into the political arena is NOT helpful.

These goals are most important. When we learn to appreciate art early in life, it is something we carry with us always.

Additional Comments

Building the audience of the future is the single most important challenge facing the arts" in our state and country. Exposing children as soon as possible to many forms of artistic expression is one way to approach audience building."

Thanks for doing this!

Thank you for the survey.

good luck, these are lofty goals

We need to make available to all children the opportunity to see quality performances and art exhibits. It is through the arts that people gain a balanced intellect.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinions! Got Art? !!!

Please concentrate more on the individual artists not just the arts organizations. Organizations have many more opportunities to make money than individual artists. Artists really need equipment/supply grants/ and grants for living. We can't even afford health insurance. The resources for individual artists are dwindling and organizations have many more opportunities to fund raise than the individual. Please, please concentrate on the artists, they are the ones who MAKE the art for which we are advocating.

Emphasize the role of the arts in childhood development and scholastic achievement.

We have been actively involved in our local Arts Council and the impact on our family has been very positive

I use the Arts Council as a supplement to my curriculum, so that my three children will receive a balanced education.

The 'arts' are usually what is lacking in a homeschool curriculum. We pay school and city taxes like everyone else and it is wonderful to be able to benefit from them. Often times homeschool children loose out because their 'area' is not homeschool friendly. We are so fortunate to live in a very homeschool friendly area. Thank you again!

just one quick suggestion for future surveys: I think that a good number of these questions/statements can only be effectively answered by those who are intimately involved with the arts and grant-writing communities. What I am saying is that only a select number of people out of an already select number of people that will spend time to answer this survey know what percent for art and "capacity building" mean. Maybe there's not a way to be clearer but I think it is something to keep in mind for the future."

Having a full time art/music/phys. ed teacher in every school I feel would make a big difference on the scores that children make on their testing. One time a week for 30-40 minutes is not enough.

Yes, artists must live and work in a supportive community. However, they must realize that they are operating a BUSINESS, and that it is not the KAC's responsibility to find them health insurance, etc. All small business owners face issues concerning marketing, insurance, and property. Time would be better

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spent researching and initiating programs to improve arts communities/education in the arts as a whole (which ultimately benefits everyone), rather than focusing too much on the individual. Be wary of creating a what can the arts council do for ME" attitude. This mindset is not productive and very difficult to turn around."

Consider this: Ireland is a tax-free zone for artists. The artists who move there to take advantage of that often bring non-artist family members and friends along with them, and those people then become tax-payers. Also, it has drawn in BUSINESSES that are NOT tax free. These include, but are NOT limited to foundries... glassworks... artists'supplies... galleries... working tour studios, etc. Even more restaurants and gas stations, video rental shops and groceries. It's a thing the media will cover for free, because it interests the common citizen. Tourism booms. ---> Berea, for example, is using that same idea (sans tax exemption) for its own growth and success. Why could not most communities do the same or similar? The Red River Gorge is stuffed full of tourists the year around. Yet they rarely are seen in the local towns... wouldn't a reason to go see the work of local artists help the entire region? I think the Irish clearly take the arts more seriously than Kentuckians have in the past. They're also PROFITTING by it. Maybe our artists will never see tax-exempt status, but we COULD make it a more inviting place for them to be, and for people to come and see them, and buy their goods. What's not to love about a plan where many gain, and few lose by it? All we ask is that we get help to help ourselves. We may be poor and not all formally educated, but that doesn't necessarily make us ignorant. Artists do what they do for the love of it, because it's in the heart of them. We'd like to see the rest of the world get a taste of what we have that SHOULD be treasured and supported. There's plenty of room for expansion and new ideas. Let's give it a whirl. Thank you for giving us this chance to speak out. You have no idea how much that encourages the down-trodden and nearly hopeless among us.

Support free speech in the arts.

Arts Council needs to get out of the funding business and into the information and knowledge brokering business.

i wish this could be accomplished today. i am afraid that people do not understand the importance of the arts to the development of people and to the economy of kentucky..

I love quotations, and one of my favorites is from George Bernard Shaw: Without art the crudeness of reality would make the world unbearable."

I believe my comments on various suggestions pretty well define my ideas for Kentucky politics in art. Artists are loners. That's how we work. We need networking. We need nourishment for individuality. And we need an educated public. None of which exist so far. If you can help with these three things, we can take it from there.

One thing I fear from the phrasing of some of these goals is a legion of arts zealots out beating people over the heads with the importance of the arts." The concentration should be on making the arts more important; remember the old show don't tell philosophy. Make it so the art can't be ignored not the people advocating the arts. I would also really caution against initiatives to create more organizations. We have plenty of struggling arts organizations hanging on by their fingernails and we should be focusing on helping them determine their worth and mission and strengthening those groups."